

Remarks

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 13-16, and 19-22 are currently pending in this application and have been allowed. Upon reviewing the Examiner's Amendment to claim 1, Applicants noticed a comma was replaced with a semicolon in line 5 and the word "comprises" was changed to "comprising" in line 5. Applicants did not approve these changes and therefore do not authorize entry of the Examiner's Amendment.

In place of the Examiner's Amendment, Applicants are providing the above amended claim 1 which includes the changes agreed upon during the telephone interview of October 28, 2005. The amendment to claim 1 set forth above is submitted to solely to resolve formal matters that the Examiner intended to address in the Examiner's Amendment that was included with the Notice of Allowability. The proposed amendment does not affect the scope of the allowed claims. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter amended claim 1. No other claims are amended, cancelled or added.

Comments on Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

In reply to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, Applicants note that portions of the Examiner's comments paraphrase claim features and do not represent the actual claim language with complete accuracy. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims should be deemed patentable for the actual claim language recited therein. Applicants also respectfully submit that patentability is based on the subject matter of the claims as a whole. That is, the patentability of the claims rests on the combination of recited elements and limitations. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that no one element or limitation in particular should be deemed to impart to or be required for patentability of the claims.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 are all separately patentable from each other and are patentable for the subject matter specifically recited as a whole in each of those claims. These comments are being filed before payment of the Issue Fee.

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If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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